

**From:** Brian Bird <bhbird@ucdavis.edu>  
**To:** Dr. Melinda Rostal <rostal@ecohealthalliance.org>  
**CC:** Jon Epstein <epstein@ecohealthalliance.org>; Emily Hagan <hagan@ecohealthalliance.org>; PREDICT-outbreak <predict-outbreak@ucdavis.edu>; Dr. Jonna Mazet <jkmazet@ucdavis.edu>; Arif Islam <arif@ecohealthalliance.org>  
**Sent:** 2/6/2018 1:49:54 PM  
**Subject:** Re: [predict-outbreak] Fwd: Urgent : Participate Nipah virus outbreak investigation

Hi Mindy and Arif,

We forwarded this information this morning up to Andrew and he concurs that we should assist the government in this investigation. If you could forward to us a couple of things as you get them:

1. A written request from the GoB to assist them in this investigation.
2. An estimated budget and rough scope of work once that is settled with the GoB.
  - a. For the lab testing, I would include all five priority virus families, not just the paramyxos for the specimens collected.
3. A completed list of the in-country contacts for Bangladesh that usually is at the end of the outbreak form (seems to have fallen off of this one).

And, do you know if any actual specimens were collected from the deceased patients, either ante or postmortem, for confirmation of a Nipah v. etiology?

I've attached the report form with just some minor edits.

Best of luck to the field team! Stay safe, and good hunting.

-Brian

**From:** "Dr. Melinda Rostal"  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 7:39 AM  
**To:** Brian Bird  
**Cc:** Jon Epstein , Emily Hagan , PREDICT-outbreak , "Dr. Jonna Mazet" , Arif Islam  
**Subject:** Re: [predict-outbreak] Fwd: Urgent : Participate Nipah virus outbreak investigation

Dear Brian,  
Attached is the completed Rapid Report for the Bangladesh outbreak.

The government did formally ask us to participate; however, the request was made verbally during a meeting. We can ask for a letter from IEDCR tomorrow (Feb 7) as IEDCR's offices are already closed today.

Is that sufficient to start the outbreak investigation request process?

Thank you,  
Mindy

**Melinda Rostal DVM, MPH**  
*Senior Research Scientist*  
*PREDICT 2 Surveillance Coordinator for EcoHealth Alliance*  
*Rift Valley Fever Virus Project Manager*  
EcoHealth Alliance  
460 West 34th Street – 17th floor  
New York, NY 10001

1.212.380.4489 (direct)  
1.212.380.4465 (fax)  
[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Visit our blog: [www.ecohealthalliance.org/blog](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org/blog)

***EcoHealth Alliance leads cutting-edge research into the critical connections between human and wildlife health and delicate ecosystems. With this science we develop solutions that promote conservation and prevent pandemics.***

On Feb 6, 2018, at 10:33 AM, Brian Bird <[bhbird@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bhbird@ucdavis.edu)> wrote:

Jon,

Can you forward the official request from the GoB? In general, this sounds like an appropriate area for PREDICT to assist. But we'll need official concurrence from Andrew before proceeding. So I'll need that official invite.

Thanks,

-Brian

**From:** <[predict-outbreak-request@ucdavis.edu](mailto:predict-outbreak-request@ucdavis.edu)> on behalf of Jon Epstein  
<[epstein@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:epstein@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Date:** Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 5:04 AM

**To:** Brian Bird <[bhbird@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bhbird@ucdavis.edu)>

**Cc:** Mindy Rostal <[rostal@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:rostal@ecohealthalliance.org)>, Emily Hagan <[hagan@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:hagan@ecohealthalliance.org)>, PREDICT-outbreak <[predict-outbreak@ucdavis.edu](mailto:predict-outbreak@ucdavis.edu)>, Jonna Mazet <[jkmazet@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jkmazet@ucdavis.edu)>

**Subject:** [predict-outbreak] Fwd: Urgent : Participate Nipah virus outbreak investigation

Brian,

We have a request from the government of Bangladesh to assist with a suspected Nipah virus investigation.

Our role would be to support wildlife (bat) sampling and limited livestock sampling. I would encourage DLS participation as a capacity building opportunity as well.

Given what we know, I would suggest to the team that they focus on non-invasive urine collection for a few consecutive days, which has shown to be an effective way to detect Nipah.

We'll develop a more detailed plan for sample collection and detection if approval is granted and once we speak with Arif.

Cheers,

Jon

Jonathan Epstein DVM, MPH, PhD

Vice President for Science and Outreach

EcoHealth Alliance  
New York

(e) [epstein@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:epstein@ecohealthalliance.org)

(o) 212.380.4467

(m) [REDACTED]  
@epsteinjon

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Ariful Islam" <[arif@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:arif@ecohealthalliance.org)>

Date: Feb 6, 2018 7:37 AM

Subject: Urgent : Participate Nipah virus outbreak investigation

To: "Melinda Rostal" <[rostal@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:rostal@ecohealthalliance.org)>, "Emily Hagan" <[hagan@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:hagan@ecohealthalliance.org)>, "Jon Epstein" <[epstein@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:epstein@ecohealthalliance.org)>

Cc:

Dear Jon and Mindy:

On 6<sup>th</sup> Feb18, the PREDICT country coordinator was notified that there were two human encephalitis cases that were suspected to be Nipah virus by the Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research (IEDCR). The government has not officially announced the outbreak to be Nipah virus, but under the assumption that it may be Nipah virus, IEDCR is conducting an outbreak investigation in Bogra district.

As the reservoir for Nipah virus is flying foxes (*Pteropus bats*), IEDCR requested PREDICT to provide assistance in wildlife sampling and domestic animals sampling (if needed). No ill domestic or wild animals have been noted to be associated with these human cases.

All two patients have a history of drinking raw date palm sap (which is known to be associated with Nipah virus transmission) and had symptoms of encephalitis. both patients died.

**Location: Village :Gunahar, Upazila: Dhupchanchia, District: Bogra**

**No of patient: 02**

**Death: 02**

**History of raw date palm drinking**

**Presence of bat roost near to the case house**

**Note: this outbreak location is near to previous outbreak Akkelpur ,Joypurhat district where Nipahvirus outbreaks reported 2012-2013 and we were able isolate Nipahvirus from bat urine from this location.**

**with best regards,**

**Arif**